The Government is aware that the environmental conditions like unsafe drinking water and unhygienic sanitation are significant determinants of health risk, contributing to the burden of diseases. The National Health Policy, 2002, envisages that the independently stated policies and programmes of the environment related sector be smoothly interfaced with the programmes of health sector in order to reduce health risk to the citizens and consequential disease burdens. In order to strengthen surveillance activities and prevention and control of communicable diseases including water borne diseases, a central health programme, namely "National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases (NSPCD)" has been launched in 1997. The programme is in operation in 101 districts all over the country. The National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) is the nodal agency for this programme. An integrated disease surveillance programme is envisaged during the Tenth Plan.

National Institute for Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata, under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), renders support for investigation of diarrhoeal disease outbreaks occurring in different parts of the country. It provides guidelines for control and prevention of future outbreaks.

———

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Cultivation of tea in Uttaranchal

†1852. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total area in Uttaranchal in which tea is cultivated;

(b) whether it is a fact that great possibilities are existing in the State for production of high quality tea;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to provide special assistance to the State Government for renovation and improvement of tea gardens; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The total area under tea cultivation in Uttaranchal at present is about 1290 hectares. The studies on feasibility of tea plantation in the hills of Kumaon and Garwhal regions of the Uttaranchal State have revealed that the hilly regions are agro-climatically suitable for producing good quality tea. Consequently, two nucleus tea projects of 200 hectares each, one at Kausani (Kumaon region) and another at Nauti (Garwhal region) have been set up under the aegis of M/s. Kumaon Mondal Vikash Nigam Ltd. The tea manufactured from Kausani Tea Plantation has produced good quality orthodox tea.

(c) and (d) Steps taken by the Government, for the overall development of tea in the State of Uttaranchal, include:—

- The State of Uttaranchal has been declared as non traditional area for extending the benefits of tea development schemes applicable for non-traditional areas. During the Tenth Plan, special consideration has been made for granting subsidy under the Tea Plantation Development Scheme for expansion of tea area by the small growers in Uttaranchal.
- Benefits under the market Promotion Scheme of the Tea Board, which provides for incentives for export of organic tea, green tea, decaffeinated tea & other speciality teas.
- Assistance in the form of subsidy for setting up of tea nurseries raised by State Government/Government agencies.
- Provision of loans for procurement of irrigation equipment.
- Study tours for small growers to other tea growing areas of similar climatic condition and training of supervisory cadres in Tea Research Institutes for better knowledge about the modern scientific aspects of tea cultivation.
- Financial support for setting up of self help groups by the small tea growers.
- Approval, in principle, of the setting up of a small Tea Research Station at Uttaranchal for scientific research on tea during the Tenth Plan period.